

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EGEN, NI, US

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS: JOINT STATEMENT

REF: LAGOS 13085 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT COMMENDS EMBASSY FOR CONCISE AND ACCURATE SUMMARY OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS IN LAGOS AT BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER. WE WISH TO SECURE NIGERIA'S AGREEMENT TO SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER MEETINGS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE UNDERSTAND NIGERIANS ARE PREPARING SOMEWHAT MORE DETAILED SUMMARY OF THEIR INTERVENTIONS IN ORDER TO BALANCE U.S. PRESENTATION. EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE EARLIEST CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM NIGERIANS OF CHANGES SUGGESTED BELOW IN DISCRIPTION OF U.S. PRESENTATION, AND TO ASK HOW SOON
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NIGERIANS WILL PROPOSE DRAFT SUMMARIES OF THEIR OWN PRESENTATION. WHEN WE HAVE AGREED SUMMARY, WE WISH TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER MEETINGS, ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS THAT MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON AND IN LAGOS.

2. FOLLOWING CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IN DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT PREPARED BY EMBASSY.

A) PAGE 3 UNDER ITEM (G) SHOULD READ: OPIC - THE BENEFITS OF THE OPIC PROGRAM WERE DESCRIBED. THE OPIC TEAM ALSO URGED SIMPLIFICATION OF THE INSURANCE APPROVAL PROCESS BY THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. THEY URGED THAT IF "AUTOMATIC APPROVAL" IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE FMG, THE FMG SHOULD PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SIMPLIFYING THE APPROVAL PROCEDURES.

B) PAGE 4 LAST PARA SHOULD READ: IN REGARD TO OPIC, THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION SUGGESTED THAT THE OPIC PROPOSAL TO SIMPLIFY THE INSURANCE APPROVAL PROCESS BE SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS. IN THE MEANTIME, THE FMG AGREED TO EXPEDITE APPROVAL REQUESTS AND TO REDUCE PROCESSING TIME NOT TO EXCEED FOUR WEEKS.

C) PAGE 5 FIRST PARA SHOULD READ: II. TRADE - THE U.S. DELEGATION DREW ATTENTION TO NIGERIAN TRADE-INHIBITING POLICIES, INCLUDING IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS ON A NUMBER OF ITEMS (E.G., FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, PASSENGER CARS, USED CLOTHING, TEXTILES AND PAPER PRODUCTS) AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS, INCLUDING THE UPCOMING REQUIREMENT OF SOLELY METRIC LABELING ON ALL IMPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS ON FOOD AND DRUG IMPORTS. THEY REQUESTED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO WITHDRAWING OR EASING THESE IMPEDIMENTS TO TRADE. THE U.S. DELEGATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALSO EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT NOTIFY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE GATT OF TRADE MEASURES AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE.

THE U.S. DELEGATION ENCOURAGED NIGERIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN).

D) PAGE 6 SECOND PARA FROM THE LAST PARA SHOULD READ: FINALLY, WITH REFERENCE TO A POSSIBLE NIGERIAN BOYCOTT DIRECTED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, THE U.S. DELEGATION GAVE A COMPREHENSIVE EXPOSITION OF U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION, POINTING OUT THAT AMERICAN FIRMS COULD NOT ENGAGE IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY ASPECTS OF A BOYCOTT FOSTERED BY ONE FOREIGN COUNTRY AGAINST ANOTHER.

E) PAGE 7 ITEM (1) SHOULD READ: THE TRADE REFORM ACT OF 1974 WHICH EXCLUDES NIGERIA FROM GSP BENEFITS BECAUSE OF HER MEMBERSHIP IN OPEC.

DELETE ITEM (3)

LAST PARA SHOULD READ: IN RESPONSE, THE U.S. DELEGATION

STATED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S EXECUTIVE BRANCH ITSELF
OPPOSED PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE REFORM ACT OF 1974 EX-

CLUDING OPEC MEMBERS FROM GSP BUT CITED THE DIFFICULTY
IN CHANGING THE LEGISLATION AT THIS TIME. REFERRING TO
HR 5262, THE U.S. DELEGATION EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE
DEPRESSED COMMODITY PRICES WHICH LED TO THIS LEGISLATION
WOULD BE TEMPORARY. THE U.S. DELEGATION AGAIN NOTED THAT
THE MULTILATERAL APPROACH IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WAS,
IN THE OPINION OF THE U.S., THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND BENEFI-
CIAL FOR WORLD TRADE. VANCE

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